

REMARKS

Favorable review is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Editorial amendments have been made to claims 1 - 4, 6 - 14, and 18. Amendments made to claims 1, 11, and 18 are supported, for example, at page 11, lines 1 - 3, page 12, lines 7 - 10, page 17, lines 16 - 22, page 22, lines 12 - 15, and Fig. 1(b) of the specification. Amendments made to claim 10 are supported, for example, at page 11, lines 1 - 3 and page 18, lines 1 - 2 of the specification. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 22 and 23 have been added. Claim 22 is supported, for example, at page 16, lines 7 - 17 and original claim 5 of the specification. Claim 23 is supported, for example, at page 8, line 11 and claim 1 of the specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 - 23 are pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant confirms the election of claims 1 - 10 with traverse. In addition, applicant requests that claims 11 - 21 be maintained so they may be reinstated once the corresponding non-sintered thin electrode claims are allowed. Claims 11 and 18 have been amended to track the amendments made to claim 1.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to for informalities. The informalities have been removed. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 - 10 were objected to because of informalities, the use of "type". "Type" has been removed from claims 1 - 10. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 - 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following comments. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Examiner was unclear on how the concave and convex parts could be closest to both a concave part and a convex part. Claim 1 has been amended editorially to alleviate any potential confusion. Furthermore, an amendment to correct a typographical error has been made by replacing the "and" connecting the elements of component (c) with "or". It is evident from the invention that the elements of (c) should not be cumulative but rather alternatives.

The Examiner was unclear of what a "group" in claim 1 encompasses. Applicant asserts that "group" is well known to those skilled in the art. For example, a group of convex parts is two or more convex parts in close proximity to each other.

The Examiner was unclear in claim 1 how the groups of concave and convex parts are closest to both groups of convex parts and groups of concave parts. Claim 1 has been amended editorially to alleviate any potential confusion.

The Examiner was unclear in claim 1 how the walls of the concave and convex parts are tilted according to the closeness to the edges of the concave and convex parts. Editorial amendments have been made to claim 1 to alleviate any potential confusion. See claim 1, in particular, "the convex parts and concave parts include edges, which are regions of the convex parts or concave parts located in close proximity to a surface of the non-sintered thin electrode", which is supported, for example, at page 12, lines 7 - 10 and Fig. 1(b) of the specification.

The Examiner was unclear with claim 5. Claim 5 has been cancelled and new claim 22 has been written to alleviate any confusion. For clarification, the columns are substantially parallel with each other, not parallel with the longitudinal direction of the electrode. The columns define an angle of about 30 to about 60 degrees with respect to a longitudinal direction of the electrode. In addition, the columns alternate from convex parts (groups of convex parts) to concave parts (groups of concave parts). See Fig 1(b), viewing from top to bottom.

Applicant notes that the Examiner's interpretation of claim 9 is correct.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawano et al. (WO 99/63608). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following comments.

Claims 1 and 10 require that walls of said concave and convex parts are contoured in one direction. WO 99/63608 does not disclose or suggest this limitation. See Fig. 1, Fig. 2A, and Fig. 2B of WO 99/63608. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim 23 requires that the non-sintered thin electrode has a thickness of 500 μm or less. The thickness of the electrode allows for high power. WO 99/63608 does not disclose or suggest a thickness of 500 μm or less. Thus, claim 23 is even further removed from WO 99/63608.

Conclusion

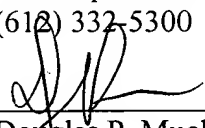
In view of the above amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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